

What is claimed is:

- 1) In a process for producing an elastomer, a PIR, or PUR foam product by reaction of an organic isocyanate and a polyol in the presence of a tertiary amine catalyst, wherein the improvement comprises conducting the reaction in the further presence of a compound which contains tris-(hydroxyethyl)methyl ammonium cation, said compound being present in an amount of at least 40% by weight, based on the weight of the tertiary amine present in the composition from which said foam product is produced.
- 2) A process according to claim 1 wherein the charge counterbalance for said tris-(hydroxyethyl)methyl ammonium cation is provided by the presence of an ion selected from the group consisting of: hydroxide ion, carbonate ion, bi-carbonate ion, chloride ion, bromide ion, a C₁-C₄₀ carboxylate anion, dihydrogen phosphate anion, mono-hydrogenphosphate anion, and phosphate anion.
- 3) A process according to claim 1 wherein said process is conducted in the presence of any amount of water between about 0.05 % and 50.0 % by weight based on the total weight of said polyol present.
- 4) A process according to claim 1 wherein said tertiary amine is selected from the group consisting of: N,N,N'-trimethyl-N'-hydroxyethyl-bisaminoethylether; bis-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)ether; N,N,N',N'',N''-pentamethyl-dipropylenetriamine; N,N-dimethylcyclohexylamine; and pentamethyldiethylenetriamine.

5) A process according to any of claims 1-4 which is conducted in the further presence of potassium ion, present in any amount between 0.05 % and 4.0 % by weight, based on the total weight of the foam produced.

6) A process according to any of claims 1-5 which is conducted in the further presence of one or more materials known to those skilled in the art falling within the classes of: surfactants, flame retardants, and blowing agents when used in the production of polyurethane elastomers or polyurethane foams.

7) An aqueous solution comprising tris-(hydroxyethyl)methyl ammonium cation, water, and a tertiary amine.

8) An aqueous solution according to claim 7 wherein said tertiary amine is selected from the group consisting of: N,N,N'-trimethyl-N'-hydroxyethyl-bisaminoethylether; bis-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)ether; N,N,N',N'',N''-pentamethyl-dipropylenetriamine; N,N-dimethylcyclohexylamine; and pentamethyldiethylenetriamine.

9) A solution comprising tris-(hydroxyethyl)methyl ammonium cation and one or more C₁-C₄₀ carboxylate anions dissolved in an organic solvent selected from the group consisting of: alcohols having between about 1 and about 20 carbon atoms; ethers having between about 1 and about 20 carbon atoms; alkylene glycols; polyalkylene glycols; glycol ethers; hydrocarbons; ketones; and esters.